

HARPURVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HORNETS NEWS

April 2025

Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Harpursville School Community,

I hope this letter finds you well and eagerly anticipating the arrival of spring. This time of year is always filled with excitement and activity within our school community. With that in mind, I would like to take a moment to share some celebratory news and provide an update on our budget development process.

First and foremost, our schools continue to thrive thanks to the dedicated efforts of our students, parents, and staff. Here are a few highlights of recent accomplishments in Harpursville:

We recently hosted our second annual Junior/Senior High Attendance Matters Family Game Night, which was a great success. The event was well attended, and along with the fun and games, we awarded hundreds of dollars in gift cards to students. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to everyone in the district and our broader community for their generous donations. A special thank you goes to the Nineveh Country Store, Visions FCU, CNR Deli, and Kristy McWherter with Farmers Insurance for their contributions. Additionally, I want to recognize and thank Jill Andrews, our registrar, for her time and dedication in organizing and running both the elementary and secondary game nights.

We also held our annual Harpursville Student Career Expo, featuring speakers from various career fields to expose students to potential future opportunities. Many of these speakers are Harpursville alumni, and we deeply appreciate their willingness to take time out of their busy schedules to share their experiences with our students. A special thank you to Megan Harrington and Karen Slesinsky, our school counselors, for their hard work in coordinating this valuable event.

A huge congratulations to our RoboHornets VEX robotics teams for their continued success! I am thrilled to announce that Mr. Salisbury has a middle school team and high school team that have qualified for the VEX World Championships in Dallas, Texas. This marks the first time we have had two teams qualify for this prestigious event in the same year. Best wishes to Liem Donahue, Alex Afify, Jacob Rueffer, and Glenn Miller as they represent us in the high school division. In the middle school division, we have Kalen Kulas and Easton

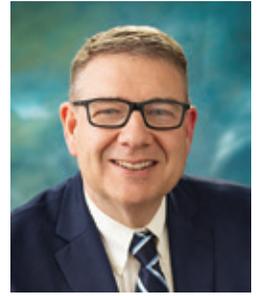
Bagg. We are incredibly proud of them and confident they will represent our district well on the world stage.

As a reminder, we are still in the process of developing the district's budget for the 2025-2026 school year, and I encourage and welcome your participation. Here are some important dates to keep in mind:

- On March 24, we held our first budget workshop to review the information received regarding budget proposals from the Governor's office, along with the One House proposals from the Senate and Assembly.
- On April 16, the Board of Education will adopt the final budget.
- The annual school district vote on the 2025-2026 budget, bus purchases, and Board of Education seat will take place on Tuesday, May 20.

The Board of Education and the administration remain committed to providing exceptional educational and extracurricular opportunities while fulfilling our fiscal responsibilities. I encourage you to stay engaged in the budget process. The budget calendar is available on the district's website under the "District - Budget and Tax Information" tab. Our final budget hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, followed by the annual vote on May 20. Your presence and participation in the voting process are highly encouraged.

As we move into spring, I wish you a wonderful season and a strong finish to the school year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office.



Heath Georgia
Heath Georgia,
Superintendent

District Communication

District Communication Guidelines

Frequently, parents and other community members request help in knowing the best way to communicate with the school. The chart below will serve as a helpful resource. By contacting the following people in the prescribed order, you can be assured that your questions will be answered.

For questions about	First contact	Second contact	Third contact	Fourth contact	Fifth contact
Academics	Teacher	Guidance Counselor	Principal	Assistant Superintendent	Superintendent
Athletics	Coach	Athletic Director	Principal	Assistant Superintendent	Superintendent
Behavior	Teacher	Guidance Counselor	Principal	Superintendent	
BOE Policies	District Clerk	Superintendent	Board of Education		
Budget	Business Admin	Superintendent			
Building Use	Admin Assistant	Principal	Superintendent		
Cafeteria	Director of Food Services	Business Admin	Superintendent		
Classroom Procedures	Teacher	Principal	Assistant Superintendent	Superintendent	
Bus Behavior	Bus Driver	Head Bus Driver	Principal	Superintendent	
Co-Curricular	Advisor	Principal	Assistant Superintendent	Superintendent	
Facilities	Director of Facilities	Business Admin	Superintendent		
Health Office	Nurse	Principal	Superintendent		
Scheduling	Guidance Office	Principal	Assistant Superintendent	Superintendent	
Special Education	Teacher	CSE/CPSE Chairperson	Principal	Assistant Superintendent	Superintendent
Transportation	Head Bus Driver	Business Admin	Superintendent		

District Directory

District Office (607) 693-8112

Board of Education

Heath Georgia, Superintendent

Tabaitha Rhodes, Sec. to Superintendent/District Clerk

Assistant Superintendent..... (607) 693-5713

Sarah Miller, Asst. Supt. of Instruction,

Curriculum & Accountability

Melanie Allen, Admin. Assistant

Business Office (607) 693-8120

Joseph McLaughlin, Business Official

Amanda Loihle, Personnel Clerk (607) 693-8124

Special Education (607) 693-8104

Joshua Quick, CSE/CPSE Chairperson

Jennifer DeCamp, Admin. Assistant

Jr/Sr High School (607) 693-8105

Kristine Conrow, Principal

Amy Walker, Admin. Assistant

Guidance Office (607) 693-5734

Karen Slesinsky, Jr/Sr HS Counselor

Megan Harrington, Jr/Sr HS Counselor

Allena Rowe, Admin. Assistant

Attendance/Registration (607) 693-8108

Jill Andrews, Student Records

W.A. Olmsted Elementary (607) 693-8115

Kevin Walsh, Principal

Jessica Moore-Hovancik, Admin. Assistant

Phylcia Dunham-Fleming, Elementary

Guidance Counselor

Health Offices

Rebecca Adolf, RN, Jr/Sr High Nurse (607) 693-8118

Julia Peets, RN, WAO Elem. Nurse..... (607) 693-8119

Athletics (607) 693-8133

Joshua Quick, Athletic Director

Food Services (607) 693-8127

Norene Tasber, Director of Food Services

Transportation (607) 693-8100

Ken Starr, Supervisor of Transportation

Facilities (607) 765-4145

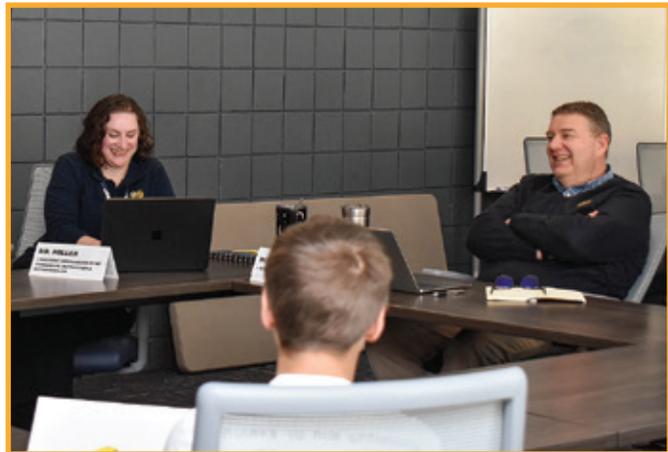
Ed Livermore, Director of Facilities

News In The Schools

Student Advisory Meetings

Superintendent Georgia and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Miller recently hosted several student advisory meetings with students from each school. Over lunch in the district boardroom, students engaged in open discussions about what's going well in their schools and areas where they'd like to see improvement.

From school culture and climate to academics, sports and extra-curricular activities, the meetings provided a space for students to share their perspectives and suggest meaningful changes. It was a valuable opportunity for connection, collaboration and ensuring student voices are heard in shaping the future of their schools.



One school board seat up for election in May

Petitions for those interested in running for one open seat on the school board are available in the District Clerk's Office. Please make an appointment to pick one up by calling (607) 693-8112. Signed petitions are due back to the district office by 3 p.m. on April 21. Additional election details are outlined on the district webpage at www.hcs.stier.org/BoardofEducation.aspx



Scan the QR code for Board of Education information

Board of Education calendar for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year:

- **March 24**-budget workshop, 6 p.m.
- **April 16**-board meeting, 6 p.m.
- **April 21**-board candidate petitions due to District Clerk by 3 p.m.
- **April 22**-Digital photo and board candidate biography due to District Clerk by 3 p.m. for budget newsletter
- **May 7**-budget hearing/board meeting 6 p.m.
- **May 20**-budget vote 1:30-8 p.m. W.A. Olmsted Elementary gym
- **June 12**-board meeting, 6 p.m.

Meeting dates are subject to change.

W.A. Olmsted Elementary

Character Strong Award Winners

W.A.O. Elementary students came together to celebrate cooperation at this month's Character Strong assembly. Teachers recognized students for the outstanding ways they show cooperation—whether by respectfully listening to instructions, helping others, participating in class or being a great friend. Keep up the great work, Hornets!



Every day in school is a step toward success. Keep showing up, and keep working hard to achieve your goals!



W.A. Olmsted Elementary

Celebrating Reading at W.A.O. Elementary

During Dr. Seuss Week at W.A.O. Elementary School, students and staff had a blast celebrating the joy of reading!

Each themed day paid tribute to our favorite Dr. Seuss stories. The week kicked off with Mustache Monday and Top Hat Tuesday, bringing creative outfits and big smiles. Wacky Wednesday had everyone laughing as students sported wild hair and wacky outfits, Thing 1

and Thing 2 Day had the school seeing double, and the week concluded with Fix-in-Socks Day.

Adding to the excitement, students enjoyed a special visit from Harpursville Board of Education President Michelle Noyes, who read to classrooms, making the day even more memorable.

Thank you, Michelle, for inspiring our young readers and helping make Dr. Seuss Week extra special!



W.A. Olmsted Elementary

Peer Mentoring at W.A.O.

Our dedicated fifth-and sixth-grade students are making a meaningful impact by tutoring first and second grade in literacy skills. Through this peer mentoring program, older students develop leadership skills while guiding their younger buddies on the path to becoming confident readers.

A huge thank you to Mrs. Colpitts and Mrs. Hartman for launching this initiative, and to Ms. Herrick, Ms. Baciуска and Mrs. Mignerey for their collaboration in bringing it to life.

This program is just one example of our multi-tiered approach to strengthening literacy at W.A. Olmsted Elementary!



Breakfast with the Bunny

Fundraiser for HCS Class of 2025

9:00-11:00
\$5.00/ person

Boys and Girls Bike Raffle

1 raffle entry with each breakfast
Additional raffle entries \$1.00 each.

Presale tickets

Available for purchase at
WA Olmsted Elementary Office

Easter Egg Hunt

No Charge

11:30

Ages 12 Years and Under
BYO Baskets



SATURDAY
APRIL 12

Harpersville American Legion

W.A. Olmsted Elementary

New York Thursday Taste Test at W.A.O.

W.A.O. Elementary recently welcomed the Rock On Café for a special New York Thursday menu item taste test! Joined by Dan, the owner of Happy Valley Meat Co., and the Food and Health Network, students sampled a chopped New York beef and cheese sandwich.

Students could customize their samples with options

such as lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, hot sauce, and ketchup. After tasting, they voted in one of three categories: "I loved it," "I liked it," or "It's not my favorite."

With more than a 95% approval rating, this new item is sure to be a lunch-menu favorite in the district!



April 2025 Menu

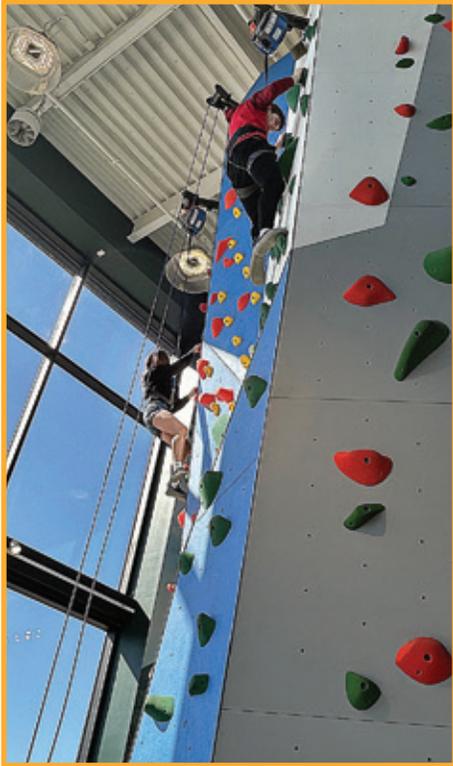
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 <i>Breakfast Bread</i> <i>Fruit</i> Walking Taco w/toppings Corn NY Apple Juice/Milk	2 <i>Sausage Muffin</i> <i>Juice</i> Boneless Chicken Wings Corn Poppers Veggie Cup Orange Juice/Milk <i>(Chef Salad)</i>	3 <i>Snack'n Waffle</i> <i>Fruit</i> Mike's Cheese Bites w/sauce Side of garlic butter'ed noodles Cucumbers NY Apple slices Juice/Milk	4 <i>Hornett Muffin</i> <i>Juice</i> Homemade Pizza Garden Salad w/chickpeas Fruit Juice/Milk
7 <i>Mini Cinni/Juice WAO</i> <i>Frudel/Juice HS</i> Popcorn Chicken w/ roll Mashed Potatoes Gl. Carrots NY Apple Juice/Milk	8 <i>Cinnamon Roll</i> <i>Fruit</i> Chicken Mac & Cheese Garlic Breadstick Broccoli Fruit Juice/Milk	9 <i>Egg & Cheese Muffin</i> <i>Juice</i> French Toast Sausage Potato Tots Veggie Cup Juice Juice/Milk <i>(Popcorn Chicken Salad)</i>	10 Snack'n Waffle Fruit WAO Brk Bread Fruit HS Loaded NY Nacho's w/toppings NY Corn Confetti Salad NYApple/NY Juice/Milk	11 <i>Breakfast Breaks WAO</i> <i>Homet Muffin HS</i> Homemade Pizza Garden Salad w/chickpeas Fruit Juice/Milk
14 <i>Mini Pancakes</i> <i>Juice</i> Cheeseburger on a roll Sw Potato Fries Gl' Beans NY Apple Juice/Milk	15 <i>Mini Bagels</i> <i>Fruit WAO</i> <i>Cinnamon Roll</i> <i>Fruit HS</i> Taco's w/topping Seasoned Rice Corn Fruit Juice/Milk	16 <i>Snack'n Waffle</i> <i>Juice</i> Lupo's Chicken Spiedies Fries Veggie Cup Banana Juice/Milk <i>(Chicken Spiedie Salad)</i>	17 <i>Fr. Toast Sticks</i> <i>Fruit</i> Stuffed Crust Pizza Garden Salad w/chickpeas Fruit Juice/Milk	18 <h2>No School</h2>
21 	22 <i>Earth Day</i>	23	24	25 <i>National Pretzel Day</i> 
28 <i>Mini Bagels</i> <i>Juice</i> Chicken Nuggets w/roll Mashed Potatoes Gl. Carrots NY Apple Juice/Milk	29 <i>Breakfast Bread</i> <i>Fruit</i> NY Meatball Sub Fries Mixed Vegetables Fruit Juice/Milk	30 <i>Sausage Muffin</i> <i>Juice</i> Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Veggie Cup Banana Juice/Milk <i>(Chef Salad)</i>	Alternate Daily Choices: Ham & Cheese Sandwich OR Turkey & Cheese Sandwich OR Yogurt w/Cheese Stick & homemade Granola OR PB&J w/Cheese Stick & Cheez-its WAO Salad Option on Wednesdays MS/HS Daily WAO Offers Chips for sale on Wednesdays @ \$.75 & Ice Cream on Fridays @ \$1.25 there is no charging, send money or check with child or use the QR code on the website under food services for credit cards.	

Spring Break

News In The Schools

House of Sport Field Trip

Recently, students from the Jr./Sr. High School were invited to Dick's House of Sport for a fun-filled day of activities. They enjoyed the outdoor ice-skating rink, climbed the rock wall and tried their hand at golf on the simulator. The day provided students with a chance to explore new activities with their classmates outside the classroom.



Top Gun Drone Competition

Lukas McKnight and Amber Kolb emerged as the champions of Mr. Strantz's drone competitions this year. The challenges included two high-stakes competitions in the world of Harpursville drone racing: the Top Gun drone competition and the Dogfight competition.

In the prestigious Top Gun competition, McKnight and Kolb showcased their unparalleled piloting skills and precision, dominating the challenges to claim the top spot. Their exceptional ability to navigate the obstacle course under pressure earned them well-deserved recognition.

Meanwhile, in the intense Dogfight competition, known for its fast-paced, competitive format, the duo triumphed again. Their strategic maneuvers and quick reflexes allowed them to outpace and outsmart the competition, securing the championship title.

Both victories cement McKnight and Kolb as our "Top Guns," demonstrating their dominance across both competitive arenas.



Lukas McKnight and Amber Kolb after their big wins

Jr/Sr High School

Harpursville Central School District Launches School Food Center

Harpursville Central School District, in partnership with the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, Binghamton University Community Schools and Good Neighbors, is excited to announce the opening of the Harpursville School Food Center.

Located in W.A.O. Elementary Room 119 (enter near the soccer field), the school food center provides free supplemental groceries to Harpursville CSD families, students and staff. The center carries perishable and nonperishable food items, ensuring access to nutritious options for those in need.

The food center is open Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m., offering a convenient and welcoming space for the school community to receive support.

Harpursville CSD and its partners are committed to serving students and families, and they look forward to supporting the community through this important initiative.

For questions, contact

Katie Bowers or Phylcia Dunham-Fleming by calling either school's main office.

Jr./Sr. High School Main Office-
(607) 693-8105

W.A.O. Elementary Main Office-
(607) 693-8115



News In The Schools

Music in Our Schools

For 40 years, March has been designated by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) as Music In Our Schools Month® (MIOSM®), and the Hornets have been busy preparing and performing music!

To help us celebrate MIOSM, several students attended the Music All-County festivals this school year.

The Winter All-County Festival was held on January 18 in Unadilla Valley. Harpursville had 15 students participate in a full day of rehearsing that culminated in a concert, with nine other school districts.

Students who participated include:

SSAA Choir (Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto 1, Alto 2)- Riley Daly, Megan Cole, Elizabeth Ives, Harmony Mosher, Viviana Huston, and Aurora Connett

TTB Choir (Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Baritone)- Ephram Rowe

Elementary Band (Grades 5 and 6)- Hunter VanBarriger, Garrus VanGorder, Hannah Cole, Hailey Merrin, Hunter Hartman, Bennett Barton, Andrei Connett, and Jase Franklyn

The Spring All-County Festival was held on March 14-15 in Greene. Harpursville had 22 students representing our district! There were sixteen band and chorus students by audition, and six Elementary chorus students by teacher recommendation. Congratulations and special shout out to senior Maxamus Allen, for achieving the 1st chair Tuba position through his audition. We are proud of you!

Students who participated include:

Elementary Chorus (grades 5/6)- Hailey Merrin, Evalee Kulas, Carly LaVergne, Hunter Hartman, Gabriel Mosher, and Hannah Cole

Junior Band (grades 7/8)- Hayleigh Moorehead, Colby Johnson, Tamryn Roys, Megan Cole, Kelsey Brewster, Emma Snow, Angelina Quaglia, Miley VanBarriger, Riley Daly, Jordan Truman, Aurora Connett, and Isabella Brotzman

Senior Band (grades 9-12)- Elizabeth Ives, Xander Quick, Max Allen, and CJ Closs.

Select Choir (grades 9-12)- Ephram Rowe

The Harpursville Music Department has a legacy of success in our community, and Mr. Campanella and Mrs. Cole are so proud of their students and appreciate the support of the community. The positive impact of music education lasts a lifetime, and we are thrilled to celebrate our students' hard work and achievements. Bravo to all!



News In The Schools

All County Participants



Congratulations to the following students on their college acceptances



Zavior Aurich
SUNY Broome—
Computer Science



Daniel Clapper
SUNY Broome—
Liberal Arts and Sciences

News In The Schools

Robo Hornets Success at Northern New York State VRC High Stakes Championship

On March 5, the Robo Hornets competed in the Northern New York State VRC High Stakes Championship at Onondaga Community College. This final state tournament determined the top teams and qualifiers for VEX Worlds.

Four Robo Hornets teams aimed to refine their robots, reach the finals, perfect autonomous programming, and secure the Excellence Award. The competition featured 75 teams in two divisions, with Worlds invitations at stake.

Standout Performances

- **Liem Donahue, Alex Afify, Jacob Rueffer, and Glenn Miller:** Dominated qualifiers with a 7-0 record, earning the No. 1 seed. They allied with sixth-ranked Pandemonium from Chittenango and won the championship in a tight best-of-three series, 32-20. They also claimed the Skills Championship with a score of 78.
- **Amber Tyler:** Despite a 0-6-1 record, Amber's team advanced to the finals as the 19th seed. Though eliminated early, she ranked 25th in skills with a score of 26.
- **Nathan Riewerts:** Improved from previous tournaments, finishing 2-4-1 and ranking 27th. His team reached the finals but lost 16-12.
- **Kalin Kulas:** The only middle school competitor from Harpursville, Kalin aimed for the Excellence Award. After a slow start, he won three of his last four matches, ranked 26th, and helped his alliance pull off an upset before exiting in the quarterfinals. He later excelled in skills, scoring 31 points—enough to win the Excellence Award and qualify for Worlds.

The Robo Hornets exceeded expectations at the tournament, bringing home multiple accolades, including the Excellence Award for middle school, the Skills Champion title, and the NNYS VEX Robotic Championship trophy.

With their accomplishments at the state level, the Robo Hornets now turn their focus to preparing for the ultimate challenge: the VEX Worlds Robotics Championship. Congratulations to all the students for their hard work and dedication!



Students Visit Broome County Forum Theater

The Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra recently performed "Classically Black" at the Broome County Forum Theater, and 55 Harpursville Junior-Senior High School band members were able to attend.

This incredible program highlighted the works of Black composers, including Duke Ellington, Florence Price, Adolphus Hailstork, and Quinn Mason, with "Light" by Ellington being a favorite among the students.



Junior Prom tickets will be on sale April 7, 9, 14, and 16.



JOIN US FOR A

Masquerade Ball

Saturday • May 17, 2025 • 6:30-11pm

Tavern 1244 at Baron's Inn
1244 NY-12
Greene, NY 13778

TICKETS WILL BE \$50.00
PERMISSION SLIPS AND GUEST FORMS MUST BE TURNED IN AT OR BEFORE TIME OF PURCHASE
FORMAL DRESS REQUIRED • FREE MASK WITH A PURCHASE OF TICKET

Board of Education

Michelle Noyes, Board President
Kacie Huston, Vice President
Thomas Fargo
Nicole Robertson
Bernard Scott
Nicole Weist

Postal Patron
ECRWSS

Superintendent

Heath Georgia

Announcements

Since Colesville Dollars for Scholars was founded in 1988, our mission has been to support students in the Harpursville community.

Please consider making a meaningful contribution to our fund. Your generosity will help us to increase the amount of scholarship aid available to Harpursville Class of 2025 graduates.

There are three ways to make your tax-deductible donation:

- 1. Online** - Visit www.colesville.dollarsforscholars.org and click 'Donate Now';
- 2. Venmo** - Scan the Venmo graphic or search @colesvilledollars4scholars;
- 3. Written Check** - Make checks payable to Colesville Dollars for Scholars and mail them to the following address:

Colesville Dollars for Scholars
P.O. Box 1
Harpursville, NY 13787



SCAN TO PAY

